these classes in any department except the Devaswom Department where non-Hindus and non-caste Hindus cannot be admitted. But, you say that the policy of giving appointments to these people is not sufficiently liberal in the sense that a sufficient number of people to satisfy your demands do not get appointments. Well, I shall deal with that later.

You then mentioned the question of supplying noon-day food free to the pupils of the depressed classes. That has been the subject of representation here on previous occasions also; and you will find from my predecessor's reply that the financial aspect of that question has to be considered. You know that non-official gentlemen have made charitable endowments and, as an instance, I may mention to you the name of Rao Sahib T. Padmanabha Rao who has made a liberal endowment for the supply of midday meals to poor students. I hope that philanthropic, public-spirited and rich citizens of Travancore would come forward with more endowments and thus make it easy for the Government to fill up the gaps that would still be left.

**154. Some Suggestions for the elevation of the Depressed Classes.**

MR. AIYAPPAN MADHAVAN (*Municipal Council, Vaikam*) said that the elevation of the depressed classes was one of the serious tasks which confronted Government. Several things remained to be done for the achivement of the task. Since the time of Dewan Mr. (later Sir) P. Rajagopalachari, nothing very much had been done for the uplift of the weaker communities.

Members of the depressed classes should be entertained as liberally as possible in the various departments, without much regard to educational requirements. The causes that operated against the educational progress of those communities were removed by Government only very recently. There were several appointments in the gift of Government and of the departmental heads which did not require any particular educational qualification or technical knowledge. Such appointments should invariably be offered to Pulayas and Parayas who could read and write Malayalam. In particular, the lower ranks of the Excise and Police Departments should be filled by those men. Other considerations should not be allowed to over-ride the claims of the depressed classes for minor appointments.

Government followed a policy of drift and left everything to the heads of departments who rarely did well by those communities. Seven Pulaya youths who passed the Vernacular School Leaving Examination some years ago were still unemployed.

Schools, *satrams* and other public institutions should be thrown open to all classes of people, without exception.

The children of Pulayas and Parayas should be given scholarships and fee concessions. They should also be fed once a day at the cost of Government.

Primary education should be made compulsory among the depressed classes.

Circumstances rendered it unlikely that the depressed classes would obtain adequate representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council without adequate protection. Only by separate electorates could their interests be safeguarded. Nomination should be abandoned because nominated members could not always be expected to be bold in their advocacy of the claims of the people whom they were supposed to represent. Accordingly, separate electorates should be created for the representation of the depressed classes in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Madhavan, most of the subjects dealt with by you in your representation have already been urged by other members ; and I have replied to many of them. There are some suggestions that you have made with regard to the educational facilities for the pupils from the depressed classes. The Government will carefully consider those suggestions.

### 155. Some suggestions for the elevation and protection of the depressed classes.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Nominated*) said that all non-caste Hindus who were not allowed to enter temples or who were converted to Christianity could be called members of the depressed classes. They were the victims of unmerited hardship and grave social wrong. They could be protected and elevated only by social legislation.

Government should introduce the necessary legislation for—

(i) encouraging intermarriages among the various sections of the depressed classes ;

(ii) securing uniformity in the devolution of properties ;

(iii) restricting the hours of labour in factories, mills, etc. ;

(iv) admitting the tenants' claim for the value of improvements on the *jenmies'* and *kanom*-holders' properties :

(v) making it obligatory to nominate at least two *kudiyan* representatives in the Legislative Council, to represent the cause of the cultivators ; and

(vi) for restricting the powers of the Legislative Council in matters concerning the material advancement of the depressed classes, *e. g.*, half-fee concessions, registry of lands and preference in public service.

The Rules of the Road Board should be revised with a view to securing adequate representation of the depressed classes on that body. It would avoid the difficulties that might possibly arise in throwing open to all communities the roads maintained out of public funds.

Government should adopt a more sympathetic attitude towards the depressed classes, who were mostly engaged in industries such as coir-making, mat-making and weaving. Those industries should be amply protected by tariffs. An economic survey should be conducted in the State.